



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/533,304

04/29/2005

Masahiro Nomura

Q87822

4801

23373 7590 09/26/2007  
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.  
SUITE 800  
WASHINGTON, DC 20037

EXAMINER

LAM, TUAN THIEU

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2816

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/26/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/533,304

Applicant(s)

NOMURA, MASAHIRO

Examiner

Tuan T. Lam

Art Unit

2816

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 July 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6,7,15-17,19-22,24 and 68 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6,7,15-17,19-22,24 and 68 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 April 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                     | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

### DETAILED ACTION

The Examiner had contacted applicant's representative, attorney Carl J. Pellegrini (Reg. No, 40,766), with proposed examiner's amendment in August 2007 in order to place the application in a condition for allowance. However, no return phone call from the attorney to authorize the examiner's amendment.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 6-7, 15-17, 19-22, 24 and 68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 6, the recitation of "a pull-up and/or pull-down circuit in which the second power source is **supplied with** to a level conversion output of a level conversion core circuit" is unclear. Did applicant mean the pull-up and/or pull-down also connected to the output of the level conversion core circuit? The recitation of "the third logic circuit generating a control signal under control of the first power source (VDDL)" is misdescriptive. Figure 24 shows the third logic circuit receives the second power source (VDDH). Did the applicant means the second power source (VDDH)? Clarification is required.

In claim 7, the recitation of "a control signal" in line 2 is indefinite because it is unclear as to if this control signal is the same as the control signal recited in claim 6, line 10. Clarification is required.

Art Unit: 2816

In claim 17, the recitation of “a GND power source” is unclear as to if this GND power source is the same as or is different from the ground power source recited in claim 6, lines 8-9. Clarification is required.

In claim 19, the recitation of “a drain terminal connected to one of the level conversion outputs” in line 8 is incorrect. Did applicant mean a drain terminal connected to **the other one** of the level conversion outputs? Clarification and correction are required.

In claim 21, the recitation of “a GND power source” is unclear as to if this GND power source is the same as or is different from the ground power source recited in claim 6, lines 8-9. Clarification is required.

In claim 22, the recitation of “each of two level shift outputs” in lines 4-5 is incorrect. Did applicant mean each of two level conversion outputs? The recitation of “a GND power source” in line 5 is unclear as to if this GND power source is the same as or is different from the ground power source recited in claim 6, lines 8-9. The recitation of “the level shift outputs” in line 7 lacks proper antecedent basis. Did applicant mean the level conversion outputs? Clarification is required.

In claim 24, the recitation of “a GND power source” in line 3 is unclear as to if this GND power source is the same as or is different from the ground power source recited in claim 6, lines 8-9. The recitation of “level shift outputs” in line 4 lacks proper antecedent basis. Did applicant mean the level conversion outputs? It is also suggested to delete the “other” in line 7.

In claim 68, the recitation of “a level conversion output” in line 11 is unclear as to if this level conversion output is different from the level conversion output signal recited in lines 5-6.

Claims 15-16 and 20-21 are indefinite because of the technical deficiencies of claim 6.

***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments filed 7/24/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding the rejection of claim 6 under 35USC 112, second paragraph, applicant argues that the specification page 37 discloses the "first" power source is not persuasive because figure 24 shows the second power source (VDDH). Thus, there is inconsistent disclosure between the specification, claims and drawings. The metes and bounds of the claim can not be determined claims 6-7, 15-17, 19-22, 24 and 68 remain rejected under 35USC 112, second paragraph.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 6-7, 15-17, 19-22, 24 and 68 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

***Conclusion***

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. In this regard, applicant's cited prior art has been carefully considered.

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

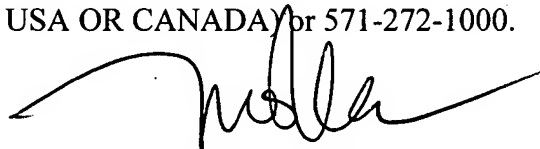
Art Unit: 2816

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan T. Lam whose telephone number is 571-272-1744. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday (7:30 am to 6:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Pascal can be reached on 571-272-1769. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Tuan T Lam  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2816

9/20/2007

## Related Art

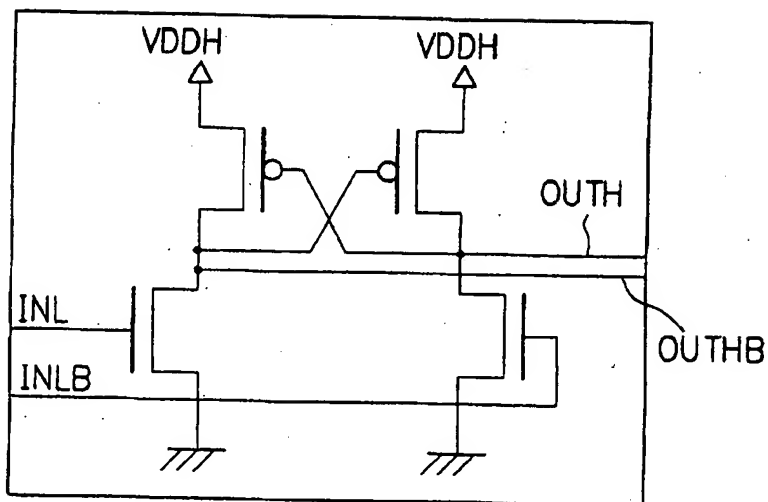
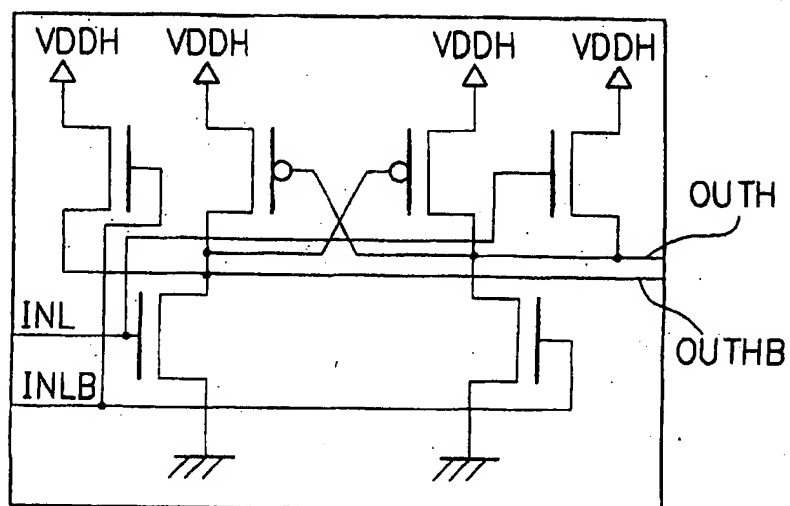


FIG. 2

Related Art



# FIG.3

Related Art

